

Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative

COMBINED MEETING: FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION WORK GROUPS

January 5, 2006, 9 - 11:30 a.m.
Members Present: Megan Coyle, Elaine Davis, Deborah Gangluff, Barbara Gilkey, Randy Glenn, Martha Hiett, Ginny Kurrus, Nick Long, Martha Reeder, J. B. Robinson, and Paula C. Watson
Regrets: Traci Johnston, Howard Knoff (represented by Randy Glenn), Gwen Paul, Kathy Robinson, and Nancy Yarborough,
Megan Coyle called the meeting to order. Barbara Gilkey and Meagan welcomed the group, and Barbara provided an overview of expectations for this meeting in preparation for the Quality Rating Scale (QRS) group's consideration of the joint work group recommendations
Agenda Item #1: QRS Update - Martha Reeder
<p>Discussion: Martha Reeder presented the two handouts related to the QRS group. One handout shows the components of what has already been proposed for each measure, showing all five levels. The other shows everything required on each individual level.</p> <p>On Level 1, all the way across the board, a program has to have a regular license without any non-compliance issues on the table. Then they must file a letter of intent to get one star. When they do, they will receive a packet of information.</p> <p>Level 2 is where gathering baseline information begins. Every program has to undergo an outside evaluation, which will most likely be based on the environmental rating scale. At the present time, the system is in place to monitor using the Environmental Rating Scale. The programs are not required to have a certain ERS score. The ERS may not gather all the information that is wanted. If this group wants to make a recommendation for the SFI self-assessment, which was distributed at the last meeting, it needs to be considered at this time.</p> <p>All recommendations must be measurable. Everything in these sheets is in draft form, subject to further revision. For instance, the Department of Education is considering a point system to evaluate staff qualifications. The QRS would incorporate this, instead of conflicting with it and adding more paperwork for providers. After the draft is complete for all seven measures, further revision will most certainly result from the process of piloting.</p>

Agenda Item #1, Continued: QRS Update - Martha Reeder
<p>Discussion: The QRS group will meet on Wednesday, January 11. Megan Coyle and Martha Hiatt will represent Family Support/Parent Education in order to answer any questions regarding recommendations.</p> <p>Martha reported that there is another small group appointed from the Early Care and Education Work Group that is working on a public relations campaign. They have had one organizational meeting. They will be meeting on January 11, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. over lunch. Anyone interested in becoming a part of the public relations group should let Martha know. The intent is to form partnerships, pulling together all groups with an interest or investment in the early childhood system, in order to make a bigger impact by pooling resources. The group is looking at the United Way, "Born Learning" Campaign</p>
Agenda Item #2: Formatting the QRS Recommendations - Barbara Gilkey
<p>Discussion: Barbara Gilkey explained the need to re-format this group's recommendations to the QRS. The joint recommendations fall into three categories:</p> <div><div>1. Tool Kit</div><div>2. Existing Performance Measures</div><div>3. Parent/Family/Community Partnerships (Recommendations must be measurable.)</div></div> <p>The Co-Chairs and Martha Reeder met earlier to determine the best way to take the existing recommendations from the Family Support/Parent Education group and fit them into the existing QRS selected measures. It was decided that persons attending this meeting would break into smaller groups to evaluate which category, as listed above, each recommendation would be placed. The group was asked to think about what "high quality" represents as they work.</p> <p>Martha Reeder reminded the group that the recommendations for the Parent/Family/Community Partnerships measure must be something in which the programs can be held accountable. If a matter is not quantifiable but is still important, it can be placed in the Tool Kit. In the highest levels (Level 4 and 5), some states offer the programs options, which this group may want to consider. As choices are made, Martha suggested that we ask ourselves how to hold people accountable. She also reminded the small groups to include in the Tool Kit the items needed to make the recommendations happen.</p> <p>There were comments and questions related to the recommendations. Nick Long suggested that there is a need to clearly define staff training expectations. Does two hours mean two hours per year? Does year mean calendar year? What are the expectations for staff hired during that year? Is it a requirement for all staff (or just a certain percentage)?</p> <p>The meeting group then broke up into three groups with each group working with two of the performance measures from this group:</p> <p><u>Martha Reeder, Facilitator</u>,-- Randy Glenn and J. B. Robertson</p> <div><div>? Student Learning</div><div>? Decision Making/Advocacy</div></div>

Agenda Item #2, Continued: Formatting the QRS Recommendations
Discussion: <u>Barbara Gilkey, Facilitator</u> , -- Elaine Davis, Ginny Kurrus, and Deborah Gangluff ? Communications ? Volunteering <u>Megan Coyle, Facilitator</u> , -- Martha Hiatt and Nick Long ? Community Collaboration ? Parenting Skills After meeting together, the groups then reported back to the full group on their proposed recommendations. Martha Reeder will type up the document changes and circulate to the co-chairs. (This document is attached. Martha indicated that the document will be combined with the recommendations from the Medical Home and Social-Emotional Health Work Groups
Agenda Item #3: Adjournment
Discussion: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting date has not been determined.
RESULTING TASKS AND ASSIGNMENT: ? Martha Reeder will type up the recommendations and circulate to the co-chairs for review. ? Co-chairs will review and respond to Martha Reeder as soon as possible. ? Megan Coyle and Martha Hiatt will attend the QRS meeting on January 11, 2006.